

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 74
46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY
Al Park

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO
INVESTIGATE THE ISSUES CONCERNING INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR AND
ACCESS TO SCREENING AND DETECTION FOR COLORECTAL CANCER.

WHEREAS, approximately six hundred New Mexico women and
men are diagnosed with colorectal cancer each year and nearly
three hundred die each year of the disease; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of
cancer deaths in the state, following lung cancer; and

WHEREAS, early detection of colorectal cancer has been
definitively proven to consistently lower disease-specific
mortality, yet most people, including those with private
insurance, have not been screened for colorectal cancer; and

WHEREAS, early detection of colorectal cancer is arguably
the most powerful underused lifesaving examination available in

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 the United States; and

2 WHEREAS, increasing access to and use of colorectal cancer
3 screening would save the lives of many New Mexicans; and

4 WHEREAS, it is the mission of the department of health to
5 improve the health care afforded to all New Mexicans and to
6 reduce the incidence of disease;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested
9 to create a task force that includes representatives of the
10 American cancer society, the New Mexico medical society, health
11 care practitioners, health care providers and others to
12 investigate the issues concerning insurance coverage of and
13 access to screening and early detection tests for colorectal
14 cancer in the state; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
16 report its findings and recommendations to the appropriate
17 interim committee of the legislature by October 2003; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the secretary of health.